

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 1, 6, 8-11, 13, 20, 21, 25, 28, and 29 as follows, without prejudice or disclaimer to continued examination on the merits:

1. (Currently Amended) A network device comprising:
~~a central fabric subsystem; and~~
~~a distributed fabric subsystem coupled to the central switch fabric subsystem and capable of transferring network data packets with the central switch fabric subsystem.~~
at least one central switch fabric subsystem; and
at least one distributed switch fabric subsystem located on a forwarding card coupled to said central switch fabric subsystem and capable of transferring network data packets with said central switch fabric subsystem;
wherein said central switch fabric subsystem comprises:
a central controller subsystem located on a first switch fabric card; and
a central data transfer subsystem coupled with said central controller subsystem,
wherein a portion of said central data transfer subsystem is located on a second switch fabric card;
wherein said distributed switch fabric subsystem comprises:
a distributed fabric transfer subsystem; and
a distributed controller subsystem coupled with said distributed data transfer subsystem for controlling network data transfer through the distributed data transfer subsystem.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Canceled)
4. (Original) The network device of claim 1, wherein the central switch fabric subsystem is located on at least one switch fabric card.

5. (Canceled)
6. (Currently Amended) The network device of ~~claim 5~~ claim 1, where another portion of the central data transfer subsystem is located on a third switch fabric.
7. (Canceled)
8. (Currently Amended) The network device of ~~claim 7~~ claim 1, wherein the distributed switch fabric subsystem further comprises:
a local timing subsystem coupled with the distributed data transfer subsystem and the distributed controller system.
9. (Currently Amended) The network device of ~~claim 7~~ claim 1, wherein the distributed switch fabric subsystem comprises a data slice component.
10. (Currently Amended) The network device of ~~claim 7~~ claim 1, wherein the distributed controller subsystem comprises an enhanced port processor.
11. (Currently Amended) The network device of claim 1, ~~further comprising:~~ wherein said [a] distributed switch fabric subsystem interface is coupled with the distributed switch fabric subsystem and capable of transferring network data with the distributed switch fabric subsystem.
12. (Original) The network device of claim 1, wherein the distributed switch fabric subsystem is a first distributed switch fabric subsystem further comprising:
a second distributed fabric subsystem coupled to the central switch fabric subsystem and capable of transferring network data with the central switch fabric subsystem and the first distributed fabric subsystem.
13. (Currently Amended) The network device of claim 1, wherein ~~the central switch fabric subsystem comprises:~~

[a] said central controller subsystem couple with the distributed switch fabric subsystem;
and

a central data transfer subsystem coupled with the central controller subsystem and the distributed switch fabric subsystem for transferring network data with the distributed switch fabric subsystem.

14. (Original) The network device of claim 13, wherein the central switch fabric subsystem further comprises:

a local timing subsystem coupled with the central controller subsystem.

15. (Original) The network device of claim 13, wherein the central switch fabric subsystem further comprises:

a local timing subsystem coupled with the central data transfer subsystem.

16. (Original) The network device of claim 12, wherein the central controller subsystem comprises a scheduler component.

17. (Original) The network device of claim 12, wherein the central data transfer subsystem comprises a cross-bar component.

18. (Original) The network device of claim 1, wherein the central switch fabric subsystem includes at least one local timing device subsystem and wherein the distributed switch fabric subsystem includes at least one local timing subsystem and further comprising:

a central timing subsystem coupled to the local timing subsystem.

19. (Original) The network device of claim 18, wherein the central timing subsystem is located within the central switch fabric subsystem.

20. (Currently Amended) A network device, comprising:
a central switch fabric subsystem[,] and
a plurality of distributed switch fabric subsystems located on a forwarding card coupled to the central switch fabric subsystem, wherein each of the plurality of distributed switch fabric subsystems is capable of transferring network packet data with each of the plurality of distributed switch fabric subsystems through the central switch fabric subsystem and

wherein said central switch fabric subsystem comprises:

a central controller subsystem located on a first switch fabric card; and

a central data transfer subsystem coupled with said central controller subsystem,

wherein a portion of said central data transfer subsystem is located on a second switch fabric card;

wherein said distributed switch fabric subsystem comprises:

a distributed fabric transfer subsystem; and

a distributed controller subsystem coupled with said distributed data transfer subsystem for controlling network data transfer through the distributed data transfer subsystem;

wherein at least one of said distributed switch fabric subsystem comprises:

a distributed data transfer subsystem comprising a data slice component, and

a distributed controller subsystem coupled with the distributed data transfer subsystem for controlling network data transfer through the distributed data transfer subsystem.

21. (Currently Amended) The network device of claim 20, wherein the central switch fabric subsystem is a first central switch fabric subsystem and further comprising:

a second central switch fabric subsystem coupled with the plurality of distributed switch fabric subsystems, wherein each of the plurality of distributed switch fabric subsystems is capable of transferring network data with each of the plurality of distributed switch fabric subsystems through the second central switch fabric subsystems.

22. (Original) The network device of claim 21, wherein one of the first and second central switch fabric subsystems comprises a primary central switch fabric subsystem and the other of

the first and second central switch fabric subsystems comprises a redundant central switch fabric subsystem.

23. (Original) The network device of claim 21, wherein certain ones of the plurality of distributed switch fabric subsystems comprise a primary distributed switch fabric subsystems and certain others of the plurality of distributed switch fabric subsystems comprise redundant distributed switch fabric subsystems.

24. (Original) The network device of claim 23, wherein at least a portion of the plurality of distributed switch fabric subsystems provide a 1:N redundancy scheme.

25. (Currently Amended) A network device, comprising:
a plurality of switch fabric cards comprising a central switch fabric subsystem; ~~and~~
a plurality of forwarding cards coupled with the switch fabric cards, each forwarding card comprising a switch fabric interface and a distributed switch fabric subsystem[,]
; and
at least one distributed switch fabric subsystem located on at least one said forwarding card coupled to said central switch fabric subsystem and capable of transferring network data packets with said central switch fabric subsystem;

wherein said central switch fabric subsystem comprises:
a central controller subsystem located on a first switch fabric card; and
a central data transfer subsystem coupled with said central controller subsystem,
wherein a portion of said central data transfer subsystem is located on a second switch fabric card;

wherein said distributed switch fabric subsystem comprises:
a distributed fabric transfer subsystem; and
a distributed controller subsystem coupled with said distributed data transfer subsystem for controlling network data transfer through the distributed data transfer subsystem;

wherein each of the forwarding cards is capable of transmitting network packet data to another forward card through its switch fabric interface and via said central and distributed switch fabric subsystems.

26. (Original) The network device of claim 25, wherein the distributed switch fabric subsystem comprises:

a data slice subsystem for transferring network data with the central switch fabric subsystem.

27. (Original) The network device of claim 26, wherein the data slice subsystem comprises:

a plurality of data slice components for transferring network data with the central switch fabric subsystem.

28. (Currently Amended) The network device of claim 27, wherein the distributed switch fabric subsystem further comprises:

a data slice controller subsystem connected to the data slice subsystem for controlling which network data the data slice subsystem transfers.

29. (Currently Amended) The network device of claim 27, wherein the distributed switch fabric subsystem further comprises:

a local timing subsystem coupled with the data slice controller subsystem and the data slice subsystem.

30. (Original) The network device of claim 25, wherein the switch fabric interface comprises a switch fabric interface component.

31. (Original) The network device of claim 25, wherein the central switch fabric subsystem comprises:

a scheduler coupled with the distributed switch fabric subsystem for scheduling network data transfers.

32. (Original) The network device of claim 25, wherein the central switch fabric subsystem includes at least one local timing subsystem and wherein the distributed switch fabric subsystem includes at least one local timing subsystem and further comprising:

a central timing subsystem coupled to the local timing subsystems.

33. (Canceled)

34. (Previously Presented) A method of operating a network device, comprising:

switching network packet data through a central switch fabric subsystem and a plurality of distributed switch fabric subsystems, wherein at least one of the distributed switch fabric subsystems comprises a primary distributed switch fabric subsystem and at least another one of the distributed switch fabric subsystems comprises a redundant distributed switch fabric subsystem;

removing the primary distributed switch fabric subsystem from the network device during network device operation; and

switching over to the redundant distributed switch fabric subsystem.

35. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 34, wherein the central switch fabric subsystem is a first central switch fabric subsystem and further comprising:

switching network data through a second central switch fabric subsystem and the plurality of distributed switch fabric subsystems;

removing one of the first and second central switch fabric subsystems from the network device during network device operation; and

switching over to the other of the first and second central switch fabric subsystems.

36. (Canceled)

Please cancel Claims 2, 3, 5, 7, 33, and 36 as indicated above, without prejudice or disclaimer to continued examination on the merits.